

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /074 W

----- 084849

R 281407Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1980

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 13110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET JEWS LINK PRESIDENT WITH FORD MOTOR CO. FAMILY

USIA FOR IBS, IEE

MUNICH FOR VOA

1. THERE IS WIDESPREAD BELIEF AMONG SOVIET JEWS THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS CONNECTED WITH THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY FAMILY WHICH IS REGARDED AS ANTISEMITIC BECAUSE OF PAMPHLET ONCE WRITTEN BY HENRY FORD, SR. FOR THIS REASON, SOVIET JEWS ARE ANXIOUS CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY AND THE ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWRY.

2. AN EMBOFF TRAVELLING ABOARD A SOVIET VESSEL FROM ODESSA TO NOVOROSIYSK AUGUST 20-21 WAS ENGAGED IN FOUR SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE WHO MADE THE POINTS IN PARA 1. MOSCOW NYT CORRESPONDENT CLAIMS 75-80 PERCENT OF THE SOVIET JEWS HE KNOWS FIRMLY BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT IS CONNECTED WITH FORD MOTOR CO. FAMILY.

3. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT VOA PROGRAMMING SHOULD PROVIDE
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AMPLE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT MAKING

CLEAR BY IMPLICATION THAT ABOVE VIEWS HAVE NO FOUNDATION.
A SPECIAL EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SQUASH THIS BELIEF BEFORE
IT BECOMES AN ARTICLE OF FAITH IN THE USSR. SOVIET
OFFICIAL MEDIA CANNOT BE COUNTED ON TO DO THIS JOB.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW13110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740238-0489
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740812/aaaaajkx.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET JEWS LINK PRESIDENT WITH FORD MOTOR CO. FAMILY USIA FOR IBS, IEE
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, FORD MOTOR COMPANY, (FORD, GERALD R)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005